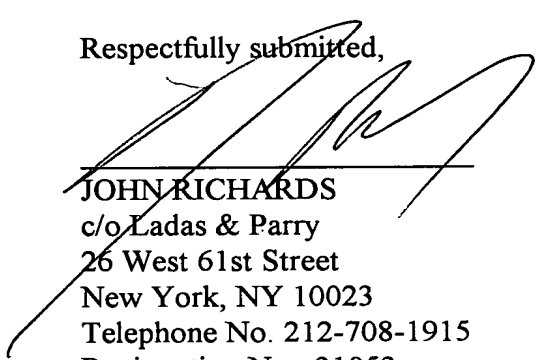


<sup>7,11</sup>]hexadec-7(11)-en-2,6-dione not to the compound itself. The importance of this method is set out in the present application in providing a new approach to production of a class of materials that are known to have utility. The compounds produced by the process of the present invention have two particular uses. Firstly they promote the use of silicon in rice plants in the formation of leaves, stems and husks. Secondly the compounds produced by the process of the invention are of use in treatment of silicosis by assisting in solubilization of silicon deposits in the lungs of those suffering from this disease.

In view of the foregoing it is believed that this application is now in order for allowance. An early action to this end is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes it would be useful to discuss this matter either personally or in a telephone interview, he is requested to let us know so that this can be arranged.

Respectfully submitted,



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